

Southern Illinois University and from the University of Virginia. He also served his country in the U.S. Army, having been stationed in Germany for three years.

His ability to develop strategic visions for the many companies he ran, also benefited the meat and poultry industry as a whole, during Lee's five-year term as an officer of the American Meat Institute. A long-time AMI director, Lee was selected by his industry colleagues and competitors to help lead the industry's national trade association and was elected AMI's Chairman of the Board in 1992.

Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to pay tribute to Lee Lochmann. His leadership has undergirded his successful career and made him a widely respected and admired leader in the food industry. I only hope that Lee and his family derive as much satisfaction from his retirement years, as he has given to the food industry during his forty-five year career.

STATEMENT ON H.R. 4090—PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICER MEDAL OF VALOR

HON. CURT WELDON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 9, 1998

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, in October of 1996, Captain Brian Alkire of the Sheffield Township, Indiana Fire Department ran into a raging structure fire to warn seven other firefighters of a fire burning in the attic above them. Before he was able to escape with the last firefighter, the roof collapsed, trapping him and Firefighter Louis Lawson in the burning building. Even though he lost his protective headgear in the collapse, Captain Alkire continued to search the toxic, superheated, and smokey room for his colleague before emerging from the structure completely on fire. He saved the lives of those seven firefighters, but as a result of his efforts he received several weeks in the Wishard Burn Unit, numerous skin-grafting surgeries, and months of occupational therapy.

In May of 1998, Baltimore Police Officer Marc Camarote rushed into a working structure fire protected only by his service uniform to rescue two people from a blaze that demolished the entire house. February 1, 1997 found Firefighter Martin Gotte in a burning building across the street from his firehouse, his arms around a little girl whom he rushed from certain death to the skilled hands of first responders who resuscitated her back to life. Lieutenant Walter E. Webb from Washington, D.C.; Lieutenant Earnest B. Copeland from Dallas, Texas; Firefighter Anthony Glover, Nashville, Tennessee; the list goes on and on.

In fact, Mr. Speaker, I could fill the RECORD today with names and stories about first responders who have showed such great valor that it might rival the volume of the federal tax code. Every day across America the story is the same, public safety officers, be they firefighters, emergency services personnel, or law enforcement officials, leave their families to join the thin red and blue line that protects us from harm. They put their lives on the line as a shield between death and the precious gift of life.

It is proper then, if not perhaps a bit late, that we should commemorate their dedication

and sacrifice with a Medal of Valor that carries the full weight of the Congress and the President of the United States. Mr. Speaker, I strongly support our military and our dedicated soldiers, sailors, and marines, but I think we must constantly be reminded that we have a corps of domestic defenders who are deserving of the same level of support and attention. As our military defenders are honored for gallantry above and beyond the call of duty, so too should we honor our corps of domestic defenders.

Of course, any of you who are familiar with the first responder community will remark that they are probably the last group of people to stand on formality and decoration. Most of them would, on their day off, put their lives at risk to save even a cat in a tree, and they would do so without hesitation. Earlier this year, Mr. Speaker, our District of Columbia Fire Department lost a firefighter, Sergeant John Carter. It is both tragic and typical of the first responder community that Sergeant Carter came in to work before his shift started to respond to that fire. Mr. Speaker, this kind of dedication is beyond our power to adequately commemorate even on the House Floor.

In my own Congressional District in October, Mr. Speaker, the Malvern Fire Company will dedicate a monument to their fallen first responders. Across the country, communities will recognize the 94 fire and emergency services personnel who have lost their lives in connection with their duties as a public safety officers this year. This number I'm sure, is supplemented half-again by fallen law enforcement officers. I am pleased then, Mr. Speaker, to give my full support to H.R. 4090, the Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor. While we cannot, in the words of Abraham Lincoln, with our poor power add or detract from the gallantry of their work with our actions, we can honor first responders with a Medal that will identify them as heroes to all Americans.

While it would be impossible to name every first responder deserving of this award let me, Mr. Speaker, conclude my remarks by offering the names of fourteen first-responders, in addition to those already mentioned, who would be a good place for the newly formed committee to start: Louis Giancursio—Rochester, NY; Mark E. Gardner—Baltimore, MD; Anthony W. Rivera—San Francisco, CA; Robert Crabtree—Carboro, NC; Jeffery A. Barkley—Phoenix, NY; John Barrett—Bronx, NY; William Benevelli—Boston, MA; Eric Britton—James Island, SC; Myles Burke—Philadelphia, PA; William Callahan—Bronx, NY; Robert Foster—Fort Worth, TX; Landon West—Fort Worth, TX; Mike Lachman—Fort Worth, TX; and Cody Stilwell—Fort Worth, TX.

TRIBUTE TO THE LITTLE LEAGUE WORLD SERIES CHAMPIONS, THE TOMS RIVER EAST LITTLE LEAGUE TEAM

HON. JIM SAXTON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 9, 1998

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute the Little League World Series Champions, Toms River East Little League team.

The 11 and 12 year olds from Toms River, New Jersey sailed through the Little League

tournament at Williamsport, Pennsylvania undefeated and won its first Little League World Series championship. Additionally, Toms River East became the first New Jersey team to win the championship since 1975 and the first U.S. team to win since 1993.

Toms River East secured the championship from the team from Japan by a score of 12–9. Chris Cardone, who was 1 for 10 coming into the final game, slugged home runs in consecutive at bats to propel Toms River East to the title.

Also starring in the game was Todd Frazier who had four hits in four at bats including a home run and earned a save in the championship game.

This past weekend, 40,000 fans, friends and family members gathered to welcome the champions home at a parade in their honor. After the speeches were concluded, a question was posed to team manager Mike Gaynor on his feelings about the magical run to the championship. Coach Gaynor summed up the experience "as the time of his life."

Mr. Speaker, I salute the Toms River East Little League team in winning the Little League World Series and to all Little Leaguers around the world who participated and upholding the Little League Pledge of "win or lose, I will always do my best."

THE MEDICARE REHABILITATION BENEFIT EQUITY ACT OF 1998

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 9, 1998

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce the Medicare Rehabilitation Benefit Equity Act of 1998. This bill will ameliorate the impacts on seniors needing outpatient rehabilitation services of coverage limits on those services imposed by the Balanced Budget Act of 1997 (BBA). Dollar limitations on services will be replaced by a patient classification system effective July 1, 2000.

Between 1990 and 1996 Medicare expenditures for outpatient rehabilitation therapy rose 18 percent annually, totaling \$962 million in 1996. During that time, outpatient rehabilitation spending shifted substantially away from hospitals and toward rehabilitation agencies and comprehensive outpatient rehabilitation facilities (CORFs). Payments to agencies and CORFs rose at an average annual rate of 23 percent and 35 percent, respectively.

The BBA enacted substantial changes in Medicare's payment policies for outpatient rehabilitation services. Two limits are imposed on outpatient rehabilitation services—coverage for physical and speech therapy is capped at \$1,500 per beneficiary per year; coverage for occupational therapy is subject to a separate cap of \$1,500. The limits will become effective for services rendered after January 1, 1999. Rehabilitation services furnished in hospital outpatient departments are excluded from the caps.

Unfortunately, these dollar limits do not take into account patient characteristics such as diagnosis or prior use of inpatient and outpatient services. Implementation of the limits will have a disproportionate effect on the most vulnerable Medicare beneficiaries and may place a financial burden on some beneficiaries.

The Medicare Payment Advisory Commission recently examined the potential impact of the coverage limits and found that some patients were more likely to exceed the dollar limits than others. The Commission found that hip fracture patients had the highest median payments and stroke patients incurred the next highest payments. While Medicare spent, on average, about \$700 per outpatient rehabilitation patient in 1996, half of all stroke patients exceeded the \$1,500 physical and speech therapy limit. In contrast, less than 20 percent of patients with back disorders exceeded the physical and speech therapy limit. In 1996 about one-third of patients treated in non-hospital settings (rehabilitation agencies and CORFs) incurred payments in excess of \$1,500 for outpatient physical and speech therapy or \$1,500 for occupational therapy. Half of the patients affected by the limits exceeded them by \$1,000 or more.

The Medicare Rehabilitation Benefit Equity Act will minimize the inequity and disruption of the BBA limits without affecting the program savings. It requires the Department of Health and Human Services to develop and implement an alternative coverage policy of outpatient physical therapy services and outpatient occupational therapy services. Instead of uniform, but arbitrary, dollar limitations, the alternative policy would be based on classification of individuals by diagnostic category and prior use of services, in both inpatient and outpatient settings.

The Medicare Rehabilitation Benefit Equity Act also requires that the revised coverage policy of setting durational limits on outpatient physical therapy and occupational therapy services by diagnostic category be implemented in a budget-neutral manner. The payment methodology will be designed so as to result in neither an increase nor decrease in fiscal year expenditures for these services. Current law provisions to adjust the annual coverage limits on outpatient rehabilitation therapy services by the medical economic index (MEI), beginning in 2002, are retained.

The Medicare Rehabilitation Benefit Equity Act recognizes that the Department of Health and Human Services' Health Care Financing Administration currently lacks the data necessary to implement a coverage policy based on a patient classification system on January 1, 1999. It further recognizes that assuring services for Medicare beneficiaries in the year 2000 is HCFA's number one priority. For these reasons, a phased transition to a patient classification coverage policy is necessary.

I urge my fellow Members of Congress to join me in support of the Medicare Rehabilitation Benefit Act of 1998. Together we can ensure that implementation of the BBA dollar limits on outpatient rehabilitation services will not disproportionately affect our most vulnerable Medicare beneficiaries.

TRIBUTE TO JAMES O. WRIGHT,
CHAIRMAN OF GOODWILL INDUSTRIES OF SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN, INC.

HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 9, 1998

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor James O. Wright, chairman of Goodwill

Industries of Southeastern Wisconsin, Incorporated, who is marking 50 years of service with the organization.

Words are a poor measure of Mr. Wright's devotion and commitment to the Goodwill movement and his generous contributions to the community at large. His record is replete with accomplishments that underscore his belief in the power of work and the American Dream.

In 1948, Mr. Wright joined the board of directors of Goodwill Industries of Southeastern Wisconsin at the age 27. As a result of his unflinching dedication to helping others, he was named chairman of the organization in 1959.

Under Mr. Wright's stewardship, Goodwill Industries of Southeastern Wisconsin has expanded its mission by administering Employment Solutions of Milwaukee, Inc., a Wisconsin Works (W-2) welfare program that places welfare recipients into jobs. As a component part of W-2 Goodwill also administers the Team Parenting pilot program that supports and strengthens the emotional and financial ties of families.

In 1994, Goodwill Industries of Southeastern Wisconsin placed 2,222 individuals in the workforce. This achievement earned the organization the 1994 Goodwill Industries International Outstanding Job Placement Services Award.

A Milwaukee native and WWII veteran who served on three navy vessels, Mr. Wright holds that individuals achieve the American Dream by empowering themselves through work, which reveals the individual's potential. In keeping with this creed, Goodwill of Southeastern Wisconsin established the James O. Wright Award to recognize employers, volunteers, and organizations who assist the disabled in seeking their right to work.

Mr. Wright's benevolence also extends beyond his good works for Goodwill and his position as chairman of Badger Meter Inc., one of Milwaukee's top industries. He has championed Urban Day School, a small independent school in Milwaukee's central city. Struck by the school's innovations in educating disadvantaged youth, Mr. Wright led a fund drive to raise \$1.5 million for school scholarships, repairs and teacher salaries. When the fund drive faced a \$5,400 shortfall, Mr. Wright tapped the foundation at Badger Meter to make up the difference. The school has now established the (W)right Stuff program which brings Mr. Wright together with 9- to 12-year-old African Americans for tours of his company and discussions centering on jobs and the professional world.

Notwithstanding these notable accomplishments, Mr. Wright also has generously contributed his time to the community by serving on the Mequon-Thiensville School Board for 18 years.

Mr. Speaker, it is with a great sense of honor that I bring before you a commendation for Mr. James O. Wright, who marks with Goodwill a half century of leadership, commitment and service.

RESPONDING TO GLOBALIZATION

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 9, 1998

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to insert my Washington Report for Wednesday,

September 9, 1998 into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

RESPONDING TO GLOBALIZATION

Globalization is the way that the economies of various countries around the world are becoming increasingly linked through improved telecommunications and transportation networks. Over the past decade, world trade has grown twice as fast as the world economy. Numerous companies around the globe are spending several trillion dollars annually on factories and other facilities in countries other than their own. And financial market reforms combined with new information technologies enable traders around the world to exchange hundreds of billions of dollars worth of stocks, bonds, and currencies every day.

The increased trade and foreign investment from globalization can enrich America by increasing our economic efficiency, increasing returns on investments, and creating higher paying export jobs. However, while globalization holds the promise of many benefits for American workers, it is also a disruptive force as U.S. workers in various industries face tough competition from countries where pay and labor standards are much lower. Policy changes will be needed to soften the negative impact of globalization on communities and individuals.

RESPONDING TO THESE CHANGES

Although some of the reactions to globalization may overstate the threat, there are some very valid concerns about its impact. These are some of the concerns and possible ways to respond:

Equity

One concern about globalization is equity. The benefits of globalization are often derived from increased specialization in an economy. In advanced industrial economies such as ours, this means that lower-skill jobs may be lost to imports from developing countries while higher-skilled sectors prosper. Although globalization should have an overall positive effect on our economy, it will tend to drive down the wages of lower skilled workers in the U.S.

Response: We can and should strengthen and improve the social safety nets that have served American society well for decades. These include worker protections such as unemployment insurance, job retraining programs for workers who lose their jobs due to trade, and support for education and training programs that will build a smarter, more productive workforce.

Environmental and Labor Standards

In developing countries, globalization can lead to worsening labor and environmental standards, at least in the short term. The increased mobility of investment makes it easier for industries to move to poorer countries, where they may take advantage of lax worker protections or environmental regulation.

Response: Over time, globalization actually helps address these problems on its own. By generating wealth and raising employment in those countries, more affluent citizens become more willing and able to demand higher labor and environmental protections. But we should also continue to implement and enforce international labor and environmental agreements, such as the labor standards promoted by the International Labor Organization and the Kyoto Convention on greenhouse gases.

Volatility

The current Asian economic crisis has its roots in globalization. Over the last thirty years, investment has poured into developing countries. This led to spectacular growth in